Attorney's Docket No.: 07703-332001 / MEK-197/J.25273 US

3652

(OIPE stamp: FEB 19 2002)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Billington et al.   Art Unit : 3652
Serial No. : 09/543,164   Examiner : J. Shapiro
Filed : April 5, 2000
Title : MONEY ACCEPTANCE METHOD AND APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

In response to the action mailed July 19, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

<u>In the claims:</u>

Please cancel claims 1-7 and 21-24.

Unamended claims appear in small print and italics for ease of reference.

8.   A vending machine having display means arranged to give first and second indications that insufficient change may be available to a customer making a purchase, the first indication being given as a warning prior to a transaction being initiated, and the second indication being given after a transaction has been initiated, each indication being produced in response to the detection of a respective set of conditions.

9.   A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, which is operable to accept monetary units in a plurality of denominations, and to dispense change in at least one of said denominations but not in at least one further denomination, wherein a first indication is given when the amount of available change in the machine is less than the value of the highest-value further denomination monetary unit.

10.   A vending machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a second indication is given after a product is selected for vending in dependence on a comparison of the money available for change and the price of the selected vend item.